CONFERENCE OF THE COMMITTEE ON DISARMAMENT

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MEXICO

Letter dated 6 August 1974 from the Leader of the delegation of Mexico to the Special Representative of the Secretary-General to the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament

My delegation considers that the contents of United Nations General Assembly document A/9293 of 8 November 1973 are of direct interest to the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament, especially in view of the contents of document CCD/431 of 16 July 1974. I should be glad, therefore, if you would kindly have it reproduced as a Conference document.

Accept, Sir, the assurances of my highest consideration.

(Signed) Alfonso García Robles
Leader of the delegation of Mexico
to the Committee on Disarmament

GENERAL AND COMPLETE DISARMAMENT

Letter dated 6 November 1973 from the representatives of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the United States of America to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

We have the honour of transmitting to you the texts of the Agreement between the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the United States of America on the Prevention of Nuclear War (annex I) and the Basic Principles of Negotiations on the Further Limitation of Strategic Offensive Arms (annex II), signed by the General Secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, L.I. Brezhnev, and the President of the United States of America, Richard Nixon, in June 1973, at Washington.

We request you to circulate the texts of these agreements as an official document of the General Assembly.

(Signed) Yakov MALIK
Permanent Representative of the
Union of Soviet Socialist Republics
to the United Nations

(Signed) W. Tapley BENNETT, Jr.
Acting Permanent Representative of the
United States to the United Nations

ANNEX I

Agreement between the United States of America and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics on the Prevention of Nuclear War

The United States of America and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, hereinafter referred to as the Parties,

Guided by the objectives of strengthening world peace and international security,

Conscious that nuclear war would have devastating consequences for mankind,

Proceeding from the desire to bring about conditions in which the danger of an outbreak of nuclear war anywhere in the world would be reduced and ultimately eliminated,

Proceeding from their obligations under the Charter of the United Nations regarding the maintenance of peace, refraining from the threat or use of force, and the avoidance of war, and in conformity with the agreements to which either Party has subscribed,

Proceeding from the Basic Principles of Relations between the United States of America and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics signed in Moscow on 29 May 1972,

Reaffirming that the development of relations between the United States of America and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics is not directed against other countries and their interests,

Have agreed as follows:

ARTICLE I

The United States and the Soviet Union agree that an objective of their policies is to remove the danger of nuclear war and of the use of nuclear weapons.

Accordingly, the Parties agree that they will act in such a manner as to prevent the development of situations capable of causing a dangerous exacerbation of their relations, as to avoid military confrontations, and as to exclude the outbreak of nuclear war between them and between either of the Parties and other countries.

ARTICLE II

The Parties agree, in accordance with Article I and to realize the objective stated in that Article, to proceed from the premise that each Party will refrain from the threat or use of force against the other Party, against the allies of the other Party and against other countries, in circumstances which may endanger international peace and security. The Parties agree that they will be guided by these considerations in the formulation of their foreign policies and in their actions in the field of international relations.

ARTICLE III

The Parties undertake to develop their relations with each other and with other countries in a way consistent with the purposes of this Agreement.

ARTICLE IV

If at any time relations between the Parties or between either Party and other countries appear to involve the risk of a nuclear conflict, or if relations between countries not parties to this Agreement appear to involve the risk of nuclear war between the United States of America and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics or between either Party and other countries, the United States and the Soviet Union, acting in accordance with the provisions of this Agreement, shall immediately enter into urgent consultations with each other and make every effort to avert this risk.

ARTICLE V

Each Party shall be free to inform the Security Council of the United Nations, the Secretary-General of the United Nations and the Governments of allied or other countries of the progress and outcome of consultations initiated in accordance with Article IV of this Agreement.

ARTICLE VI

Nothing in this Agreement shall affect or impair:

(a) the inherent right of individual or collective self-defence as envisaged by Article 51 of the Charter of the United Nations,

(b) the provisions of the Charter of the United Nations, including those relating to the maintenance or restoration of international peace and security, and

(c) the obligations undertaken by either Party towards its allies or other countries in treaties, agreements, and other appropriate documents.

ARTICLE VII

This Agreement shall be of unlimited duration.

ARTICLE VIII

This Agreement shall enter into force upon signature.

DONE at Washington on 22 June 1973, in two copies, each in the English and Russian languages, both texts being equally authentic.

FOR THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA:

(*Signed*) Richard NIXON
President of the United States
of America

FOR THE UNION OF SOVIET SOCIALIST
REPUBLICS:

(*Signed*) L.I. BREZHNEV
General Secretary of the
Central Committee, CPSU

ANNEX II

Basic Principles of Negotiations on the Further Limitation of Strategic Offensive Arms

The President of the United States of America, Richard Nixon, and the General Secretary of the Central Committee of the CPSU, L. I. Brezhnev,

Having thoroughly considered the question of the further limitation of strategic arms, and the progress already achieved in the current negotiations,

Reaffirming their conviction that the earliest adoption of further limitations of strategic arms would be a major contribution in reducing the danger of an outbreak of nuclear war and in strengthening international peace and security,

Have agreed as follows:

First. The two Sides will continue active negotiations in order to work out a permanent agreement on more complete measures on the limitation of strategic offensive arms, as well as their subsequent reduction, proceeding from the Basic Principles of Relations between the United States of America and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics signed in Moscow on 29 May 1972, and from the Interim Agreement between the United States of America and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics of 26 May 1972 on Certain Measures with Respect to the Limitation of Strategic Offensive Arms.

Over the course of the next year the two Sides will make serious efforts to work out the provisions of the permanent agreement on more complete measures on the limitation of strategic offensive arms with the objective of signing it in 1974.

Second. New agreements on the limitation of strategic offensive armaments will be based on the principles of the American-Soviet documents adopted in Moscow in May 1972 and the agreements reached in Washington in June 1973; and in particular, both Sides will be guided by the recognition of each other's equal security interests and by the recognition that efforts to obtain unilateral advantage, directly or indirectly, would be inconsistent with the strengthening of peaceful relations between the United States of America and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics.

Third. The limitations placed on strategic offensive weapons can apply both to their quantitative aspects as well as to their qualitative improvement.

Fourth. Limitations on strategic offensive arms must be subject to adequate verification by national technical means.

Fifth. The modernization and replacement of strategic offensive arms would be permitted under conditions which will be formulated in the agreements to be concluded.

Sixth. Pending the completion of a permanent agreement on more complete measures of strategic offensive arms limitation, both Sides are prepared to reach agreements on separate measures to supplement the existing Interim Agreement of 26 May 1972.

Seventh. Each Side will continue to take necessary organizational and technical measures for preventing accidental or unauthorized use of nuclear weapons under its control in accordance with the Agreement of 30 September 1971 between the United States of America and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics.

Washington, 21 June 1973

FOR THE UNITED STATES
OF AMERICA:

(Signed) Richard NIXON
President of the United
States of America

FOR THE UNION OF SOVIET
SOCIALIST REPUBLICS:

(Signed) L. I. BREZHNEV
General Secretary
of the Central
Committee, CPSU